

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PROP, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: FONOFF PRESS SPOKESMAN INTERPRETS FONOFF MEMORANDUM
ON FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

REF: LIMA 8025

1. OSCAR FAURA, FONOFF CHIEF FOR PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, TOLD PAO AND, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, EMBOFF ON SEPTEMBER 3 THAT THE GOP CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM CALLING UPON EMBASSIES TO NOTIFY VISITING JOURNALISTS FROM THEIR COUNTRIES THAT THEY MUST CHECK IN WITH THE FONOFF BEFORE INITIATING CONTACTS IN PERU, SHOULD NOT BE MIS-INTERPRETED. ACCORDING TO FAURA, WHO SAID HE INITIATED THE MEMORANDUM

, ITS INTENT WAS TO INFORM EMBASSIES THAT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS MUST CHECK IN WITH THE FONOFF IF THEY WISH TO CONTACT GOP OFFICIALS. FAURA EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT THE MEMORANDUM WAS INTENDED TO CONTROL THE FREE MOVEMENT OF JOURNALISTS. "IF THEY WANT TO SEE HAYA DE LA TORRE", HE SAID, "THAT IS THEIR BUSINESS AND FONOFF PERMISSION IS NOT NECESSARY. WE ONLY WANT TO REGULATE CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT."

2. THE MEMORANDUM CAME ABOUT, FAURA SAID, BECAUSE A FRENCH STRINGER FOR LE MONDE INTERVIEWED PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ WITHOUT FONOFF KNOWLEDGE. THE JOURNALIST, ACCORDING TO FAURA, LACKED SOLID
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CREDENTIALS AND SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO SEE THE PRESI-

DENT. IN THE FUTURE THE FONOFF WILL SCREEN CORRESPONDENTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY GET INTERVIEWS COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR PERSONAL INFLUENCE OR THEIR PAPER'S IMPORTANCE.

3. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF FAURA'S DISCLAIMER, THE EMBASSY (AND WEST EUROPEAN EMBASSIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE MEMORANDUM) ACCEPTS THE MEMORANDUM AT FACE VALUE. IT STATES THAT FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ARE TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AT THE FONOFF FOR ORIENTATION BEFORE INITIATING CONTACTS (THE IMPLICATION IS OF ANY KIND) IN PERU. WE HAVE SENT THE FONOFF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE EFFECT THAT WE WOULD INFORM THOSE JOURNALISTS WHO PASS BY THE EMBASSY OF THE FONOFF REQUEST BUT THAT THE USG DID NOT CONTROL THE MOVEMENT OR ACTIVITIES OF U.S. JOURNALISTS.
DEAN

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